



William F. Martin
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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John Griffin, Chair
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair
Erika LaForme

Agent: Sarah Fortune

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 26th, 2019
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
20 Sanderson Street, Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by John Griffin at 6:02 PM with the following members:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Griffin, Chair
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair
Erika LaForme
Doug Cloutier

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Maria Firstenberg; TRC; 650 Suffolk Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA 01854
Michael Nelson, Franklin County Agricultural Society, LLC; 87 Widsom Way, Greenfield, MA 01301
Andrew Steiner, SVE Associates; 439 West River Road, Brattleboro, VT 05302
Anthony Wonseski, Jr. SVE Associates; 439 West River Road, Brattleboro, VT 05302
Fred Steiner, Franklin County Agricultural Society, LLC; 87 Widsom Way, Greenfield, MA 01301
Colleen Puzas, SWCA Environmental; 15 Research Drive, Amherst, MA 01002
Andrew Ven; 17 Sunset Square, Greenfield, MA 01301
Kelley Fike, SVE Associates; 439 West River Road, Brattleboro, VT 05302
Carol Ball; 124 Thayer Road Ext, Greenfield, MA 01301
Randie Handleman; 124 Thayer Road Ext, Greenfield, MA 01301
Maureen Lynch; 62 Homestead Avenue, Greenfield, MA 01301
John Gates; 15 Sunset Square, Greenfield, MA 01301
Laura Lefebvre, TRC; 650 Suffolk Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA 01854
Mike Nelson; 89 Wisdom Way
Alan Twarog, Greenfield Department of Public Works; 189 Wells Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Alan Schmidt, Greenfield Public Schools Facilities Manager; 195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

6:03 PM Administrative Matters: Approval of Minutes from 1/22/2019, 2/26/2019

Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the minutes from January 22, 2019 as revised

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries (John Griffin abstains)

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to table the approval of the minutes from February 26, 2019 until April 9, 2019

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

6:04 PM Administrative Matters: Review Correspondence



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➤ **EverSource Energy Right-of-Way (ROW) Maintenance Activities:**

EverSource Energy submitted a letter to the GCC informing them of maintenance activities along transmission right-of-ways to occur during 2019.

➤ **Registration open for 2019 MA Open Space Conference on 4/27/19:**

The 2019 Massachusetts Open Space Conference is being held on April 27, 2019 at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, MA. Registration is now open and the conference is free to attend.

6:05 PM Administrative Matters: Other Business (New/Old)

➤ **270 Turners Falls Road:**

There was no update on this agenda item.

➤ **Review & discuss development of fee schedule:**

There was no update on this agenda item.

6:05 PM Administrative Matters: Chair, Agent & Member Reports

Rachel Lindsay informed the GCC that she was asked by a member of the public for the location of the entrance to the Lillian Street Conservation Area, but was unaware of the access location to the property, and suggested that the GCC conduct a site visit to determine if signage needs to be refreshed and /or replaced.

6:10 PM Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements & Violations

➤ **Right of First Refusal (ROFR) – 975 Bernardston Road**

The GCC received a Notice of Intent to Sell Land Subject to Chapter 61A Designation on March 5, 2019 from the property owners of 975 Bernardston Road for the release of 18,064 square-feet of land to sell to the abutting property owners at 987 Bernardston Road for residential purposes. The Agent informed the GCC that there are wetlands on the property at 975 Bernardston Road including a shall marsh meadow and shrub swamp that are hydrologically connected to other adjacent wetland complexes, but that there are no wetlands on the square footage to be removed from Chapter 61A. Rachel Lindsay asked if there are abutting conservation areas to either of these properties, which would constitute a reason to exercise the Right of First Refusal; the Agent reported that there are no conservation areas abutting the subject parcel.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay not to exercise the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) for 18,064 square-feet of land subject to Chapter 61A designation at 975 Bernardston Road

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-1 – Motion Carries (Doug Cloutier abstains)

6:17 PM Cont. NOI: DEP # 168-0328 – Adams Road (ROW), guardrail replacement

The Commission will continue review a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by Ian Hodgdon c/o the Town of Greenfield Department of Public Works for the Right-of-Way (ROW) located between 128 and 144 Adams Road for the proposed installation of a concrete block retaining wall and reconstruction of existing guardrails. All disturbance associated with the proposed project will occur within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW).

John Griffin opened the hearing and Alan Twarog, Greenfield Department of Public Works Engineering Superintendant was in attendance to present the project to the GCC, stating that the site plans had been revised and certified by a Registered Professional Engineer (RPE) as requested by the Commission. Alan stated that the RPE's review of the project resulted in a few changes to work – the proposed 3-foot high retaining wall was extended from 93 to 105 feet and will now be constructed from readymade concrete blocks. The new concrete block retaining wall will be constructed upon 12-inches of 1.5-inch stone



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and will be built in front of the preexisting retaining wall which will not be removed. The area between the two (2) concrete block retaining walls will be backfilled with gravel and loam to match the elevation of Adams Road. The new guardrails will then be installed and followed by final loaming and seeding. Work is anticipated to commence as soon as possible but will likely occur in April 2019.

Rachel Lindsay expressed her concern about construction-related impacts to the existing RCP culvert under Adams Road, through which an intermittent stream flows, that connects two (2) Bordering Vegetated Wetland complexes on either side of the road. Alan reported that the project was designed not to crush the culvert.

John Griffin opened the hearing for public comment, and no member of the public wished to comment on the proposed project.

Motion made by Erika LaForme to close the public hearing for DEP # 168-0328 for the Adams Road (ROW) guardrail replacement project

Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to issue the Order of Conditions with Special Conditions for DEP # 168-0328 for the Adams Road (ROW) guardrail replacement project

Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

6:26 PM Request for Determination (RDA): 70 Shelburne Road (Map 42-6B) – repave basketball court

The Commission will review a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) submitted by Alan Schmidt, Facilities Manager for the Greenfield Public Schools for the property located at 70 Shelburne Road (Assessor's Map 47-2) to determine whether the work to repair the basketball court is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance. All disturbance associated with the proposed project is located within the Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

John Griffin opened the public meeting and Alan Schmidt, Greenfield Public Schools Facilities Manager was in attendance to present the project to the GCC. Alan stated that the project is to repave and repair the basketball court at the Newton School at 70 Shelburne Road during the week of April vacation while the school will be vacant. The work to repave and repair the basketball court will occur in one (1) day and no ground disturbance is proposed. The work consists of milling the pavement, filling in the cracks, and covering the surface with bituminous material. Alan requested a waiver of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone as designated by the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance at this time.

John Griffin opened the meeting to public comment, and no member of the public wished to comment on the project.

Motion made by Erika LaForme to close the public meeting for the Request for Determination (RDA) submitted to repave and repair the basketball court at 70 Shelburne Road

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to issue a Negative Determination, Box 3 stating that the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined by the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection



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under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, subject to Special Conditions

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to issue a Negative Determination, Box 6 stating that the work described in the Request is not subject to review and approval pursuant to the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, Chapter 195

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

6:34 PM NOI: DEP # 168-0331 – 121 Thayer Road Ext. (Map 42-6B), drainage improvements

The Commission will review a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by Anthony Wonseski, Jr. of SVE Associates c/o Linda Freeman of LFT Transformations, LLC for proposed drainage improvements and minor grading on the property located at 121 Thayer Road Extension (Assessor's Map 42-6B). Disturbance associated with the project as proposed is located within the Buffer Zone and the 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, but is within the previously existing lawn area.

John Griffin opened the public hearing and Kelley Fike of SVE Associates and lawyer Elizabeth Goodwin were present on behalf of the applicant. Kelly Fike presented the project to the GCC stating that the goal is to improve backyard drainage to prevent water from entering the basement of the single family home, and to prevent standing water from developing in the backyard. The project site is a 0.31-acre suburban-residential property with an existing man-made drainage ditch along the southern property line which discharges to the abutting property a second drainage ditch on the abutting property to the west, both of which are associated with fringe Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVWs), which were delineated by Wendell Wetland Services on January 31, 2019. A small brook also collects runoff from Shelburne Mountain and discharges into Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at the western and southern portions of the project site. The combination of mountain runoff through the brook and the existing drainage ditches has created a 676 square-foot area of standing water in the backyard. The Agent reported that she performed a site inspection in January 2019 and observed the area of standing water in the backyard, which was ice at that time.

The applicant proposes to install a 12-inch area drain and a 6-inch HDPE pipe to direct the water to the existing drainage ditch along the southern property bound, which will discharge to the ditch through a level spreader to prevent scouring at the outfall. Minor grading is proposed to raise the elevation in the backyard adjacent to the BVW at the western property bound to direct the water into the drainage system. No work is proposed within the existing drainage ditches and there is no proposed increase in impervious surface or stormwater runoff. Work is anticipated to commence in the spring of 2019 when soil conditions will be suitable. Proposed erosion sediment controls consist of an 8-inch biodegradable compost filter sock located at the limit of work. Due to the limited size of the project site, work is proposed to occur within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone pursuant to the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance (GWPO); Kelley Fike requested a waiver of the No Disturb Zone under the GWPO at this time.

John Griffin opened the hearing to public comment and several members of the public were in attendance to express their overall concern about drainage issues in the neighborhood.

Motion made by Erika LaForme to close the public hearing for DEP # 168-0331 for drainage improvements at 121 Thayer Road Ext.

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay



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Rachel Lindsay requested that material stockpiling be moved outside of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone and to enclose stockpiled materials with erosion-sediment controls to prevent impacts to the BVWs and drainage ditches. Rachel also requested that the property bounds be clearly marked prior to the start of work to ensure that work does not encroach onto neighboring properties.

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Erika LaForme to issue the Order of Conditions with Special Conditions for DEP # 168-0331 for drainage improvements at 121 Thayer Road Ext. pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to grant a waiver of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone pursuant to the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, Chapter 195

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

6:15 PM Notice of Intent (NOI): DEP # 168-0331 – Rear Linwood Street (Assessor's Map 33-16C), slope failure

The Commission will review a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by Anthony Wonseski of SVE Associates c/o the Franklin County Agricultural Society, Inc. for proposed work to repair and stabilize a failed slope and to install a stormwater system on the property located at Rear Linwood Street (Assessor's Map 33-16C). Disturbance associated with the project as proposed is located within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, their Buffer Zone, and the 25-foot No Disturb Zone.

John Griffin re-opened the public hearing and Tony Wonseski of SVE Associates was present to describe the project to the GCC, stating that serious slope failure on the Franklin County Fairgrounds property has caused significant sedimentation of wetland resource areas and is posing a safety risk to private property on Linwood Street. The project proposes to mitigate the slope failure by repairing the failed slope, installing a storm drain system to convey the water to the bottom of the repaired slope, and planting fast growing vegetation on the slope to stabilize it. There is a preexisting drainage swale at the top of the slope that was constructed two (2) years ago to contain the stormwater and prevent it from discharging over the slope, but the soils on site are mostly sand and are extremely saturated due to the high levels of precipitation experienced in the recent months. The installation of the stormwater system will result in 420 square feet of permanent impacts to the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands on the project site, so the applicant has proposed to construct a 996 square foot wetland replication area that will be monitored for two (2) growing seasons by Bill Lattrell, PWS of Lattrell Ecological Consulting, LLC who will provide reports to the Commission about the success of the wetland replication area. Due to the significant cost of the proposed stormwater management system, the applicant has proposed a temporary fix to the slope failure issues that is less expensive to construct. The alternate system includes the installation of one (1) of the three (3) catch basins at the location of the most significant slope failure to convey the stormwater to a level spreader and plunge pool that will be constructed in the area of the future wetland replication area.

Per the GCC's request, the applicant provided a revised landscaping plan with additional sporadic plantings at a 1:1 replacement ratio and updated information on the seed mix specification. The applicant also spoke with MassDEP regarding the proposed temporary construction plan for the slope failure and they provided no comment.

The applicant informed the GCC that the construction plans may change resulting from review and possible funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), but that any changes made to the site plans would be reported for additional review and approval prior to the start of work on the site.



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The applicant proceeded to request a waiver of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone provision pursuant to the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, Chapter 195.

John Griffin opened the hearing for public comment, and no member of the public wished to comment on the proposed project.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to close the public hearing for DEP # 168-0331 for the slope failure mitigation at Rear Linwood Street/Franklin County Fair Grounds

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to issue the Order of Conditions with Special Conditions for DEP # 168-0331 the slope failure mitigation at Rear Linwood Street/Franklin County Fair Grounds

Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to grant a waiver of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone regulation under the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance for DEP # 168-0331 the slope failure mitigation at Rear Linwood Street/Franklin County Fair Grounds

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:42 PM Five (5) Minute Recess

The GCC took a five (5) minute recess at this time.

7:50 PM Cont. NOI: DEP # 168-0329—1417 Bernardston Road (Map R10-9) – solar array construction

The Commission will continue to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by TRC Environmental Corporation c/o Kris Pitney of Pacifico Energy NA for the construction of a .75 megawatt direct current solar array on the property located at 1417 Bernardston Road (Assessor's Map R10-9) in Greenfield. There is 115,958 square feet of permanent disturbance proposed in the Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) and 958 square feet of permanent disturbance proposed in the 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) on the project site.

John Griffin re-opened the public hearing and Maria Firstenberg and Laura LaFebvre of TRC Environmental Consultants were present on behalf of the applicant to present the project to the GCC. Additionally, Colleen Puzas of SWCA was present who has provided peer review of the project for the GCC.

The discussion focused on MassDEP and peer review comments on the Notice of Intent (NOI). John Griffin stated that he would like to develop a list of deliverables with deadlines to facilitate the peer review and public hearing processes. The GCC requested that the applicant address all comments from MassDEP on the NOI other than those that have already been addressed and agreed upon. The GCC also requested that the applicant address Colleen's comments on the NOI, which pertained to clarifying the access road width, clarification on the limit of work versus the limit of shade management activities, location of the security fencing, and additional information on utility services for the array.

The Agent additionally requested an invasive species management plan to be submitted for review and approval prior to the issuance of an Order of Conditions because the applicant is proposing invasive species management as mitigation for impacts to the Buffer Zone.



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The GCC set a deadline for the deliverables to be furnished for review by April 4, 2019.

The applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing until April 9, 2019.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to continue the public hearing for DEP # 168-0329 for the solar project at 1417 Bernardston Road until April 9, 2019

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development, located at 20 Sanderson Street, Second Floor Conference Room in Greenfield.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:13 PM

Motion made by Erika LaForme to adjourn at 10:13 PM

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah A. Fortune
Conservation Agent

John Griffin,
Chair